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SUNAK GOVT STARES AT CRUSHING DEFEAT AT U.K. GENERAL ELECTIONS

Voting was underway across the UK on Thursday in a general election widely expected to hand the opposition Labour party a landslide victory

LABOUR SET FOR ITS BIGGEST VICTORY: SURVEY

Voting began at 7.00 am (local time) in over 40,000 polling booths. Labour is projected to win its first general election since 2005, with a slew of election-eve polls all forecasting its biggest-ever win. The vote comes as the Tory government is facing public anger over the cost-of-living crisis and its own chaotic rule that has seen five PMs hold office in 14 years | P12

TORIES MAY LOSE MORE THAN 200 SEATS

- Of the 650 seats in the fray, the winning party needs to get at least 326 seats. The Tories had 365 seats in the outgoing Parliament. But they are projected to win record low of less than 150 seats this time
- Labour's Keir Starmer promised a "decade of national renewal" if his party wins. Sunak urged people not to vote for "tax-raising" Labour

430

THE NUMBER OF SEATS THE LABOUR PARTY IS EXPECTED TO WIN AS PER MULTIPLE POLLS

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Rohit Sharma and Co travel on an open top bus during a victory parade to reach Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai, where the final celebration was held on Thursday night | PTI

WHEN INDIA CAME TOGETHER

Rohit Sharma and Rahul Dravid with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday | PTI

- Team India meet PM before heading to Mumbai for a victory parade
- Men in Blue celebrate the T20 WC win with fans at Wankhede

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

A mass of humanity poured into the streets of Mumbai before converging at the Wankhede to give a welcome befitting kings and queens. The victorious Indian team, who had landed in the city in the evening after sharing stories of how they won the World Cup with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi in the morning, went on an open top bus parade from Nariman Point to the stadium in Indian cricket's headquarters.

After reaching the stadium, they made their way inside the playing field to rapturous applause as the venue eschewed every sinew to convey their thanks to a team that had won the T20 World Cup in Barbados on Saturday.

Celebrating a sporting victory is always special and pure. India Champions were written on the jerseys. The 15 men who did it wore them with pride. Back in India, 'India Champions' were etched in the hearts of 1.4 billion people since Saturday. Mumbai, like its name, saw the maximum of sports celebration, immersed in the feeling of euphoria and excitement almost resembling hysteria (in the positive sense), fans forgot about daily strife for a while. Mobile phones were out and captured every angle possible.

The Marine Drive had hardly any space to stand. It was surreal. It was magical. The journey from the West Indies had its share of drama too. India managed to reach New Delhi through a chartered flight after hurricanes disrupted their travel plans. The non-stop Air India flight that brought the team home was rechristened AIC24WC — Air India Champions 24 World Cup. The Vistara flight that flew the team from New Delhi to Mumbai was called UK1845 (jersey number of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli).

The victory parade started late. But that did not deter thousands who thronged the Wankhede where the team congregated for one final show. Rahul Dravid delivered his final speech as coach; Virat wore his T20 jersey for India one last time and Rohit Sharma was eloquent. Along with them were the India's, nay the world's finest T20 players including that national treasure Jasprit Bumrah, marauding Suryakumar Yadav and all others as well as the support staff. Months after booing him, Wankhede chanted Hardik, Hardik too. Sport is after all a great leveller. MORE ON P15

This is the first time in 15 years that I have seen Rohit show so much emotion (after the win)

— **Virat Kohli after victory parade**

Six arrested over Hathras stampede

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

THE Uttar Pradesh police on Thursday said they have arrested six *sevadars* of preacher Bhole Baba alias Narayan Sakar Hari alias Suraj Pal Jatav, in connection with the stampede at a prayer meet at Hathras that killed 121 people on Tuesday. "Four men and two women have been arrested in connection with the unfortunate incident. They are all members of the organising committee and worked as *sevadars*," IG Aligarh range Shalabh Mathur told a press meet. He said the arrested persons were responsible for crowd management. "They used to manage crowd control independently and would not allow the administration to tackle the situation," he added.

The arrested are Ram Ladaite Yadav, Upendra Yadav, Megh Singh, Manju Yadav, Manju Devi, and Mukesh Kumar. However, the main accused in the FIR, *mukhya sevadar* Dev Prakash Madhukar — an engineer with the UP Panchayati Raj department — is still at large. Police have announced ₹1 lakh reward for information about him. While the FIR doesn't name the baba, sources said police have raided his eight suspected hideouts in Mainpuri, Gwalior, Kanpur, and Hathras, but to no avail.

WITH THIS ISSUE
CITY'S BEST WEEKEND GUIDE INDULGE 40 PAGES, INCLUDING 24 OF INDULGE (TABLOID)

Sub-registrar transfers only by counselling

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE Karnataka cabinet on Thursday took a decision to transfer sub-registrars only through counselling, with immediate effect, in an apparent strategy to move out officers who have been working in sub-registrar offices in and around Bengaluru for many years. Bengaluru gives a lion's share of revenue to the state's exchequer.

Counselling will apply to those who had served for five years in the past eight years in Bangalore Metropolitan Region Development Authority (BMRDA) jurisdiction, and those who served for four years in the past five years in the 10 city corporation limits outside BMRDA in taluks. FDAs who worked for over five years in the same place will be affected. The counselling should be concluded by August 10, 2024, by relaxing transfer guidelines issued on June 25, 2024.

There are 257 sub-registrar offices across the state, of which 51 come under BMRDA jurisdiction in Bengaluru City, Bengaluru Rural and Ramanagara districts.

CONTINUED ON: P4

CABINET DECISION ON ULB ELECTIONS

The cabinet has decided to drop one of the recommendations of the Justice K Bhaktavatsala Commission of bringing all urban and local body polls under the control of Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (DPAR). The panel, set up to study the political representation of the Backward Classes, has submitted its report to the government | P4

BBMP contractors to stop works from July 8 over dues

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

CIVIC works under way in Bengaluru City are likely to grind to a halt from July 8, with the BBMP Contractors Association deciding to go on protest, citing non-release of payments by the Palike. The association members have alleged that payments to the tune of Rs 1,700 crore due to them, have been pending with the BBMP for over 24 months now. Accordingly, all ward-level works, including road construction, white-topping, lake development, and tasks related to stormwater drains, will be affected.

Speaking to *TNIE*, contractors association president Manjunath KT said, "We have repeatedly urged BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath to clear our pending bills. However, we have not received any concrete reply from him, compelling us to halt our work from July 8." Manjunath claimed that despite the civic body having the required funds, it has not cleared their pending bills. Making scathing allegations of bribery against Palike officials, Manjunath stated, "BBMP engineers have cleared bills for the works carried out two-and-half years ago. They have cleared the bills of only those who grease their palms and have kept the bills of other contractors, who refuse to pay bribes, on hold. For some contractors, 75 per cent of the bills have been cleared, while the remaining 25 per cent is kept on hold, with the engineers clearing them only if they are bribed." P2

EXPRESS READ

Naidu meets Modi over AP development

New Delhi: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu met Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on Thursday and described their discussions on key development issues concerning the state as "constructive" | P5

Language use matter of policy, says HC

Bengaluru: Observing that there should be a blend of local and global language in running the government machinery, the Karnataka High Court said language use is a matter of policy, convenience and practicality | P2

HEMANT SOREN
JHARKHAND CM FOR THIRD TIME
The JMM executive president was released on bail in a money laundering case a week ago | P9

NSE
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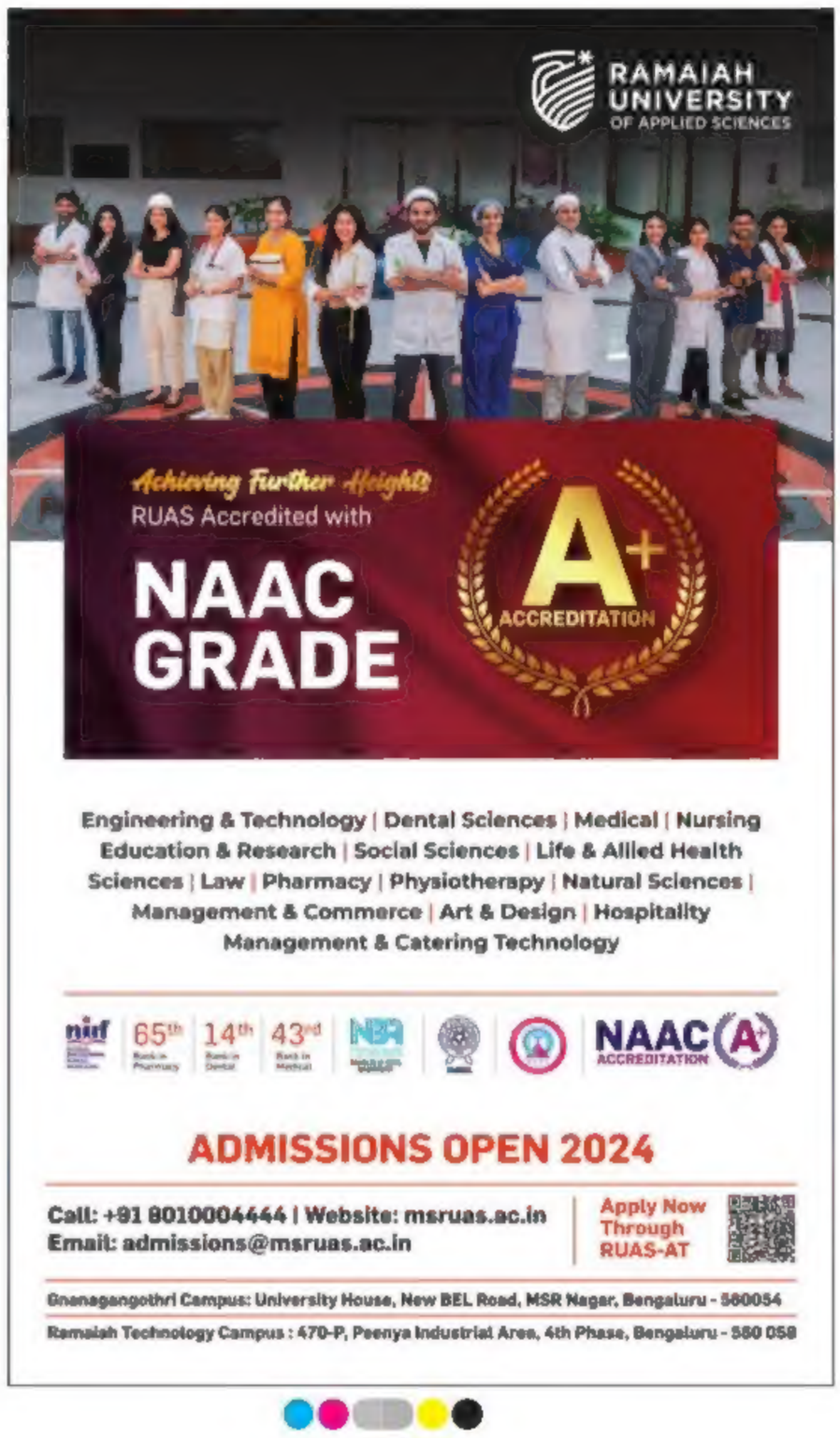
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